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## Statistics and Its Methods

*Wages and Family Budgets in the Chicago Stockyards District.*

By JOHN C. KENNEDY and others. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1914. Pp. 80. \$.25.)

This, the third number of the series of studies of Chicago's stockyards community conducted under the direction of the Board of the University of Chicago Settlement, is as thorough as its predecessors. It was written mainly by the director of the survey, John C. Kennedy, but the section on "Wages of Unskilled Labor in Industries outside of the Chicago Stockyards" is by Miss Alice Durand.

Opening with a brief sketch of the development of the Chicago stockyards, the first chapter takes up the nature of Packingtown and shows how rapidly the racial composition of the district has been changing. The Poles, Slovaks, and Lithuanians are replacing the English, German, and Bohemian workers, largely because simplified industrial processes have made possible the employment of strong unskilled men whose low standards of living make their labor cheap, and because these newer immigrants, now well established, attract others of their own race. The earnings of the packing-house employees are elaborately treated, the data having been obtained direct from the pay-rolls of two of the companies, from reports furnished by timekeepers and officials, and from a personal canvass of about 350 employees. These wage tables show an increase of the remuneration for all grades of labor between 1896 and 1903: but from 1903 to 1910 the decrease of numbers receiving very low pay was counterbalanced by a slight downward tendency in the wages of the bulk of the laborers.

Chapter 3 is a discussion of the earnings of slaughter-house employees and meat packers in Kansas City and South Omaha, of clothing makers in Chicago, and of workers in iron and steel in the Great Lakes district, based on federal reports. Comparisons are dangerous, but the figures seem to show that the men in the Chicago stockyards are a bit better paid than their fellows in Kansas City and about on a par with those in South Omaha.

In some respects the most interesting part of the monograph is the final chapter, which deals with family budgets. The data seem to have been gathered with great care, weekly visits having been necessary to straighten out the account books which were kept for periods ranging from nine weeks to a year by 184 families. Although in 94 households the father was the sole wage-

earner, on the average he contributed but 54.4 per cent of the family income, as the Poles sent their children to work, and the Lithuanians, more recently arrived and therefore not yet so bountifully supplied with children, took boarders and lodgers as a source of wealth. A careful analysis of expenditures is the basis for the estimate of the minimum cost of living of a normal family of five at \$800 per year: for each child beyond three, about \$56 must be added.

Executed with honesty and care, this investigation deserves a place with the best of the studies of family budgets. It is particularly interesting because of the specialization, 88 of the households being Polish and 68 Lithuanian. The only regret is that its publication comes four years after the larger part of the data was gathered; but this misfortune is more than compensated by the value of the statistics of packing-house wages and the thoroughness of the investigation of family finance.

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#### NEW BOOKS

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ELDETON, P. and FIPPARD, R. C. *The construction of mortality and sickness tables. A primer.* (London: Black; New York: Macmillan. 1914. Pp. vi, 120. 1s. 6d.)

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